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# *CIA director fears leftists may gain control in Iran*

LOS ANGELES [UPI]—Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, believes that leftists—not Iran's civilian government or its Islamic leaders—could become the dominant force in the oil-rich and strategically located nation if tensions there continue.

In an interview published Saturday in the Los Angeles Times, Turner said Iran faces increased polarization between religious zealots, who are loyal to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and the secular government of Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan.

Asked by the newspaper to predict who would emerge victorious from a Khomeini-Bazargan showdown, Turner replied: "Neither—the leftists."

"That's my concern because the leftists are well-organized and well-armed. If there is a split between these other two [Khomeini and Bazargan], it leaves

an opportunity for the Marxist guerrillas and terrorists to try to step in and take control."

TURNER ADDED, however, that the Soviet Union has played a very low-key role in Iran.

"They are playing a two-track policy. They are quietly supporting the [Bazargan] government on one hand and undermining it with propaganda broadcasts and support for the Tudeh [Communist] Party on the other."

"They are still ambivalent because they haven't quite seen when it [the Bazargan government] is going to go."

Turner also said he resented criticism of the CIA for its alleged "failure" in Iran, but conceded that less than a month before violent riots shook the pro-American regime of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi on Nov. 4, the CIA still believed the shah would prevail.



Stansfield Turner